क्रमशः 9,62,064,8,79,236 और 8,23,622 युवाओं ने आवेदन किया।

(ग) प्रधान मंत्री रोजगार योजना के अंतर्गत वर्ष 1995-96, 1996-97 और 1997-98 में क्रमशः 2,99,583; 2,91,309 और 2,88,755 युवाओं को ऋण स्वीकृत किये गये थे। राज्य/संघ शासित प्रदेशों से प्राप्त रिपोर्टों के अनुसार, उपर्युक्त वर्षों में स्वीकृत मामलों में से क्रमशः 2,24,819, 2,05,912 और 1,43,398 मामलों में ऋण संवितरित किये गये हैं। वर्ष 1997-98 का ऋण संवितरण कार्य अभी भी जारी है।

Foreign Investment Promotion Board

2199. DR. RANBIR SINGH:
SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND:
SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA':

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Foreign Investment Promotion Board has rejected some model statelite communication projects;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is true that a similar proposal, Indium was, accepted earlier; and

(d) if so, the reasons for such a discrimination?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHAT): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, one proposal was rejected by FIPB in July, 1996 since the Ministry of Defence and Department of Space had expressed that the proposal could be considered after specific policy in this regard is formulated. The company has not responded after rejection of their proposal. Another proposal was rejected on the ground that the replacement of the Indian promoter was not permitted under the policy.

(c) and d) M/s. Iridium India Telecom Ltd. has been granted approval to set up an iridium gateway for India and other SAARC Countries for global personal communication. Though the company has been granted approval, yet it is not entitled to operate these services without a valid license from Department of Telecommunications under the Telegraph Act. The policy for providing such services in the country is under finalization and permission to operate will be granted only after the policy is approved by Government.

Scheme to set up Heavy Industry in Assam

2200. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any comprehensive scheme to set up a heavy industry in the state of Assam to absorb the educated/ uneducated unemployed youths, so as avoid these joining anti-social element groups of the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by when it is likely to be set up;

(c) if not, the specific reasons therfor; and

(d) what is the reaction of Government thereto and effective measures being taken or proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHAT): (a) to (d) The Government have recently announced a New Industrial Policy and other concession for the North-Eastern Region. This would encourage setting up of industries in the North-Eastern region including the State of Assam and thereby create employment opportunities for unemployed youths.

Provident Fund Pension Scheme

2201. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Provident Fund Pension Scheme is applicable to all the workers contributing to Provident Fund; and

(b) the number of persons who claimed pension since the introduction of new pension scheme?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) The Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995 frammed under the Employees' Provident Fund & Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 is applicable to all the EPF subscribers except those who did not join the ceased Family Pension Scheme, 1971.

(b) As on 12.6.1998 there were 2,56,514 person drawing pension under the Employees' Pension Scheme.

Report of Labour Commission

2202. SHRI S. M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) when was the last Labour Commission set up and the date on which it submitted the report;

(b) whether all recommendations of last commission were implemented, if not the recommendations which remained unimplemented and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government propose to set up 2nd Labour Commission, if so, the reasons for taking the steps; and

(d) the terms of reference of new Commission likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) The First National Commission on Labour was set up on 24.12.1966 and the report was submitted in Aug. 1969.

(b) A statement giving the position of implementation of recommendations of First National Commission on Labour is attached. (*See* below)

(c) and (d) Labour Laws have been enacted over a period of time to address a number of issues which assumed importance and attracted pointed attention at a particular point of time. While many of thses issues are of continued nature, some of these might have ceased to be of importance hence the need for review of labour policies, programmes and laws flowing from them. This question has also been discussed in the Tripartite meeting of the Standing Labour Committee and Indian Labour Conference and the Government has agreed, in principle, to have these laws reviewed by setting up a high powered body so as to ensure consistency of labour laws with the general changes taking place in the economic policy as also to provide for greater welfare of the working class.

Statement

The Commission's recommendations covered issues like employment service, training, workers's education, working conditions, labour welfare, social security, wages and wage policy, minimum wages, bonus, machinery for wage fixation, workers' organisation, employers' organisations, industrial relations, employment of women and children, agricultural labour, labour courts, industrial tribunals, works committee, Code of Discipline, labour statstics, labour administration, grievance procedure etc.

The important recommendation of the Commission have been implemented through amendments of certain labour laws like, Workmen Compensation Act, 1923 (for removal of wage ceiling for coverage), the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947(mainly in respect of unfair labour practices), the Employees State Insurance Act, 1948 (enhancement in the wage limit for exemption from payment of Employees' contribution), Factories Act, 1948 (for making penalties more stringent for violation of safety requirements and provision of welfare facilities), and the Employees Provident Fund & Miscellaneious Provisions Act, 1952 (enhancement in the rate of contribution and making default of dues a cognizable offence). Certain new laws have also been enacted like the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970, Limestone and Dolomite Mines Labour Welfare Fund Act, 1972, Iron Ore,